

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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FOLL REPEAT COLOMBO 2315 SENT ACTION ATHENS INFO SECSTATE
USIA WASHDC 07 JULY.

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2315

USIA FOR INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CE

SUBJ: LONG ISLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

REF: ATHENS 6212 (USIAC)

1. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EITHER DREIWITZ, LIYO, USIA OR PER-
HAPS DEPARTMENT REALIZE WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST IN CONNECTION
WITH LIYO SRI LANKA VISIT JULY 17 TO 23. FIRST, TO REVIEW
BIDDING, I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A PRIVATE, NON-USG SPONSORED
VENTURE, FOR WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE FACILITATIVE
ASSISTANCE, WHICH USIS COLOMBO HAS MORE THAN CHEERFULLY DONE
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TO BEST OF ITS ABILITY. SECOND, I REALIZE THE DATES OF THE
VISIT HERE ARE SET MONTHS AGO WITHOUT REGARD TO POSSIBILITY
A GENERAL ELECTION WOULD LATER BE CALLED DURING THIS PERIOD
AND THAT TRAVEL PLANS FOR A GROUP OF THIS SIZE (90 STRONG)
AND THEIR INSTRUMENTS ARE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX. THIRD, I
DO NOT BELIEVE I UNDERSTAND FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS CONSTRAINING THE
POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATE PLANNING. I HOPE I AM MAKING ALLOW-

ANCES FOR ALL OF THESE FACTORS.

2. FROM OUR SIDE, THESE FACTORS ARE RELEVANT: THE ELECTION IS TO BE HELD JULY 21. PAST ELECTORAL HISTORY THROUGH SEVEN ELECTIONS INDICATES POSSIBILITY, RANGING TO A CERTAINTY, OF VIOLENCE IN COLOMBO AND OTHER TOWN AND VILLAGE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND DURING THE PERIOD OF TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER ELECTION NIGHT. DURING CAMPAIGN WE HAVE HELD OFFICIAL TRAVEL TO SRI LANKA TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM AND HAVE ORDERED ALL OUR OFFICIAL AMERICANS NOT TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF COLOMBO UNTIL POST-ELECTION SCENE HAS QUIETED DOWN.

3. USIS COLOMBO HAS SECURED ACCOMMODATIONS IN AND SCHEDULED CONCERTS AT HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL JULY 18 AND 19. WE ARE AT A LOSS WHAT TO DO WITH THIS 90-STRONG GROUP FOR JULY 20 TO 23. TRAVEL TO AND ACCOMMODATION IN KANDY IS ABSOLUTELY OUT. POSSIBILITY OF ANY MORE CONCERTS ANYWHERE BEFORE JULY 23 DEPARTURE IS NIL. PROBLEM BOILS DOWN TO WHERE WE CAN BED THE GROUP DOWN AS SAFELY AND INCONSPICUOUSLY AS POSSIBLE UNTIL THEY ARE ABLE TO CATCH ONWARD TRANSPORTATION. REFTEL SAYS ORCHESTRA UNABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL EXPENSES. WE HAVE NO FUNDS OR FACILITIES TO HOUSE THEM EITHER. MY OWN PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO LODGE THEM IN A BEACH RESORT HOTEL SOMEWHERE ON COAST WITHIN 30-40 MILES OF COLOMBO FOR, IN EFFECT, AN ENFORCED VACATION. IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS, PLEASE ADVISE QUICKLY AND WE WILL TRY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVEN IF IT MEANS SPLITTING GROUP.

4. MY STRONG PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR CANCELLATION OF LIYO VISIT TO SRI LANKA. I DO NOT RELISH POSSIBILITY OF SOME INCIDENT OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE TO GROUP MEMBERS AS A RESULT OF INNOCENT INVOLVEMENT WITH POST-ELECTION SCORSETTLERS. IF DEPT/USIA HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, I WOULD WELCOME THEM. PERKINS UNQTE VANCE

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